

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for providing H.323 alias address portability to an H.323 user in real-time H.323 multimedia communications wherein a geographical location is divided into home/visitor zones, and wherein each home/visitor zone has an associated home gatekeeper that maintains a centralized home/visitor location database for home and visitor location information wherein administrative zones of the geographical location of the centralized home/visitor location database are known and the H.323 user is registered with a home gatekeeper for the home zone of the H.323 user, comprising the steps of:

~~sending, by receiving from the H.323 user, a message with a called H.323 entity's alias address, to the home gatekeeper to originate a call to the called H.323 entity;~~

~~translating, by the home gatekeeper, the alias address to a called routable alias address for the called H.323 entity, the called routable alias address received from a database external to a domain of the home gatekeeper and external to a domain of the H.323 entity; and~~

~~sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity;~~

~~placing the call to the called H.323 entity and~~

~~wherein, before sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity, the home gatekeeper notifies the H.323 user of an approximation of a cost of making the call.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein each administrative domain has at least one zone.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein an alias address assigned to an H.323 user is kept fixed as the user moves from one place to another.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the alias address is an E.164 number.
6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a domain for an alias address assigned to the H.323 user in an administrative domain is a donor domain.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein, where the alias address assigned to the H.323 user is moved from a donor domain to a new domain due to roaming of the H.323 user, the new domain is called a recipient domain.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the alias address in the recipient domain is referred to as a ported number.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein location information for the H.323 user is updated by querying, by the home gatekeeper, location databases during call establishment by the H.323 user.
11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the call is placed directly by the H.323 user.
12. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the H.323 user moves to an administrative domain of the called H.323 entity and the call is placed via a home gatekeeper of the called H.323

entity.

13. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein address portability includes, for selected information in the message, having a same source address, a same destination address and different intermediate addresses.

31. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying, a program of executable instructions to perform a method for providing H.323 alias address portability to an H.323 user in real-time H.323 multimedia communications wherein a geographical location is divided into home/visitor zones, and wherein each home/visitor zone has an associated home gatekeeper that maintains a centralized home/visitor location database for home and visitor location information wherein administrative zones of the geographical location of the centralized home/visitor location database are known and the H.323 user is registered with a home gatekeeper for the home zone of the H.323 user, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from ~~sending, by the~~ H.323 user, a message with a called H.323 entity's alias address, ~~to the home gatekeeper to originate a call to the called H.323 entity;~~

~~translating, by the home gatekeeper, the alias address to a called routable alias address for the called H.323 entity, the called routable alias address received from a database external to a domain of the home gatekeeper and external to a domain of the H.323 entity; and;~~

~~sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called mutable alias address to the called H.323 entity;~~

~~placing the call to the called H.323 entity, and~~

~~wherein, before sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity, the home gatekeeper notifies the H.323 user of an approximation of a cost of~~

making the call.

32. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein each administrative domain has at least one zone.

33. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein an alias address assigned to an H.323 user is kept fixed as the user moves from one place to another.

34. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 33 wherein the alias address is an E.164 number.

35. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein a domain for an alias address assigned to the H.323 user in an administrative domain is a donor domain.

36. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein, where the alias address assigned to the H.323 user is moved from a donor domain to a new domain due to roaming of the H.323 user, the new domain is called a recipient domain.

37. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 36 wherein the alias address in the recipient domain is referred to as a ported number.

38. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein location information for the H.323 user is updated by querying, by the home gatekeeper, location databases during call establishment by the H.323 user.

39. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein the call is

placed directly by the H.323 user.

40. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein the H.323 user moves to an administrative domain of the called H.323 entity and the call is placed via a home gatekeeper of the called H.323 entity.

41. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein address portability includes, for selected information in the message, having a same source address, a same destination address and different intermediate addresses.

42. (New) A method comprising a plurality of activities comprising:
receiving, at a wide area network-based intelligent service controller, a request to originate a call to an H.323 entity, the request comprising an alias address associated with the H.323 entity, the wide area network-based intelligent service controller comprising a database external to a domain of a calling entity and external to a domain of the H.323 entity;
translating, at the wide area network-based intelligent service controller, the alias address to an actual routable network address for the H.323 entity utilizing the database; and
providing the actual routable network address.

43. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein before sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity, the home gatekeeper notifies the H.323 user of an approximation of a cost of making the call.

44. (New) The program storage device of claim 31, wherein before sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity, the home gatekeeper notifies the H.323 user of an approximation of a cost of making the call.